



Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

Volume 11, Issue #8

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

23 June 2016

Pest Patrol Hotline

The information contained herein each week is available via a toll-free hotline. I will update the short message weekly for at least as long as the newsletter runs. Call the free number **(877) 285-8525** and select the messages you would like to hear. Select #1 for updates from the Southern Region. Select #3 for the Southeast, and then select #1 to hear my message. After a new message is on the hotline, a text message alert can be sent alerting users that I have recorded a new update. Users can subscribe for text message alerts for my updates in two easy steps. Step one: register by texting **pestpat7** to 97063. Step two: reply to the confirmation text you receive by texting the letter “y” to complete your registration. The hotline is sponsored by Syngenta.

Updates on Twitter

When noteworthy events happen in the field, I will be sending them out quickly via Twitter. If you want to follow those quick updates, follow me at @bugdocisin on Twitter.



News from Around the State

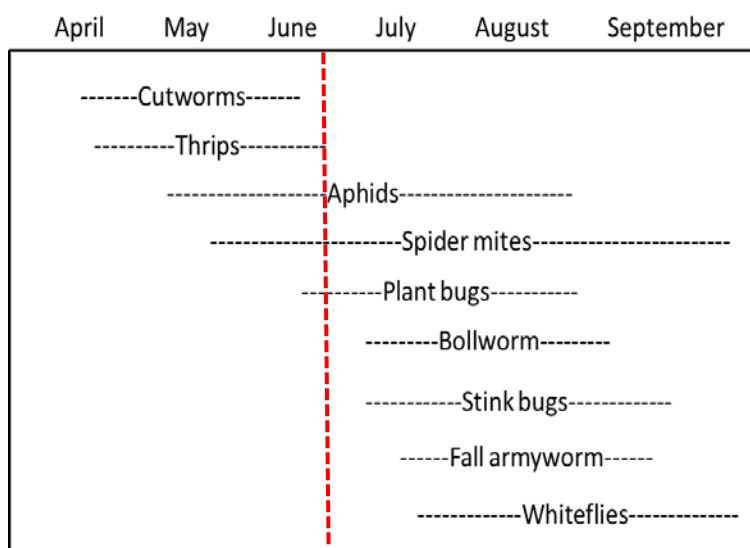
Drake Perrow, an experienced crop consultant in the state, reported that he is seeing a few aphids and spider mites but very little activity with insects. He did mention that decisions on use of growth regulator in cotton will need to be made next week, if it rains. **Collins Gardner**, another experienced crop consultant in SC, reported that “cotton is clean” when it comes to insects. He did mention that his worst pest in cotton was deer. He saw some tobacco budworm moths flying around this week and observed some foliage feeding in soybeans but nothing major.

Cotton Situation

As of 19 June 2016, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 96% of the crop has been planted, compared with 98% at this time last year and 97% for the 5-year average. About 11% of the crop was reported as squaring, compared with 16% at this time last year and 15% for the 5-year average. The crop was described as 5% excellent, 42% good, 53% fair, 0% poor, and 0% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Cotton Insects

We are moving on to aphids, plant bugs, and spider



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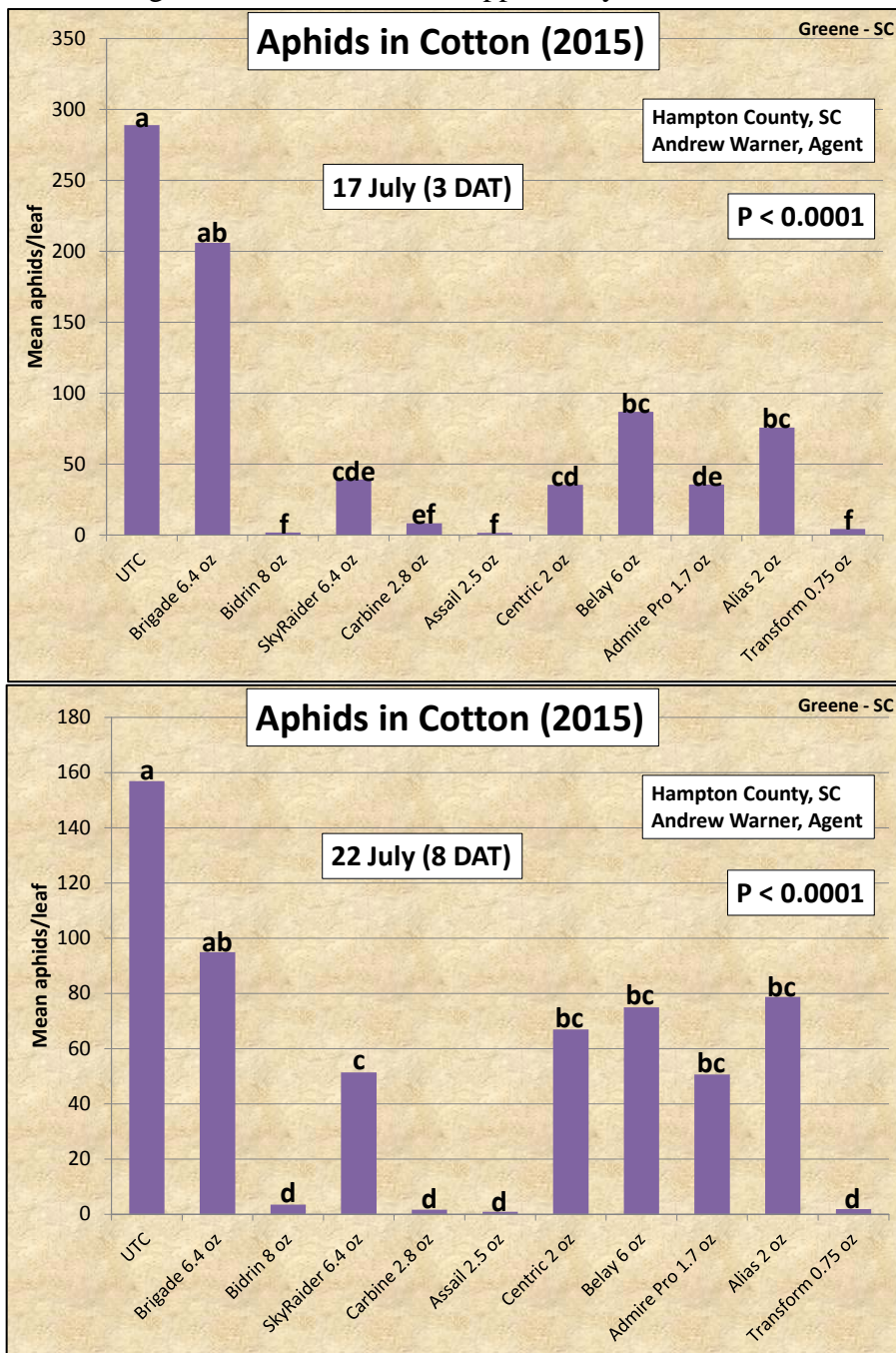
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mites (I know, not insects...but can be important). Aphids are easy to spot...just look for the shiny leaves. I have mentioned many times before that I think that aphids have to get really bad and remain on the plants for a while to cause any actual yield reductions. That being said, infestations that happen early are a different matter.

Because young plants are susceptible to stresses, such as drought, excessive heat, insects, etc, it can be important to relieve that stress when necessary. The trick with aphids is determining when that is. In the past, we often saw fields sprayed for aphids and immediately after the aphid fungus took the entire population down, and the money spent on the spray was unnecessary. However, there are times when the aphid fungus is delayed, and we need to spray. Here are some data from an efficacy trial we conducted last year in Hampton County. Transform is not available for us in cotton this year, and you cannot legally put out enough Bidrin before bloom to do any good on aphids. After bloom, you are limited to 16 fl oz of Bidrin on the crop for the remainder of the season. So, Carbine and Assail are probably the best products for control of aphids in cotton in SC, but the neonicotinoids imidacloprid (Admire Pro, Alias, etc.) and thiamethoxam (Centric) will likely give enough control to get through an infestation, if you absolutely have to do something for aphids in the crop. I like to wait on the fungus, but that is not always an option.

Scout for spider mites by looking for the stippling they do to leaves. Spider mites rather enjoy the hot, dry days we are having right now. So, they should be out there, and the first thing you will notice will be the stippling on the



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leaves. The picture here shows that. You can also easily see lighter color in the creases under leaves, where the mites aggregate and feed. Two-spotted spider mite is the most common species. We will cover spider mites more later in the season.



Tarnished plant bugs (TPB) are going to be in the mix soon in some locations, although the species is not typically a widespread pest in SC. So, it makes our job tougher in having to look for something that may or may not be a problem. The best ways to check for TPB problems are to monitor square

retention and use a sweep net to check for adults. You can use a drop cloth also, but early in the season, the sweep net is a better choice for spotting the adults. To check square retention, I like



to look at the first position square a few nodes down from the terminal. Presence or absence of this square is a good measure of square retention, if you look at 25 plants or more in a few locations in the field. Because cotton sheds a bunch of squares due to physiological factors, not all problems with square retention should be blamed on insects like plant bugs. You need to verify with sweep-net counts or

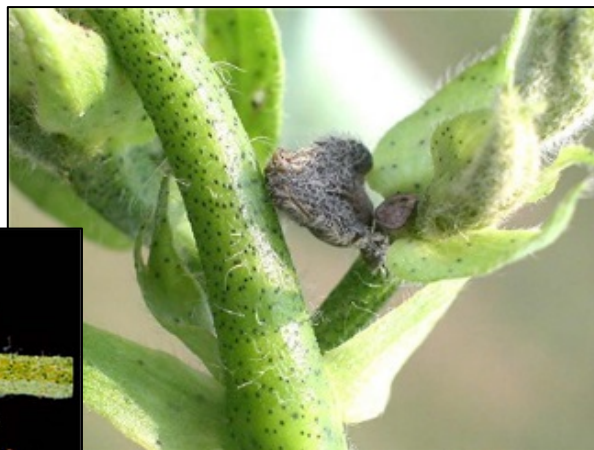
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observations (blooms and squares are good places to look) that there are too many plant bugs present to go with the reduced square retention estimates. “Blasted” squares or those fed on by plant bugs that abort or shed look like the picture included here. You will see some of these when checking for square retention. But, remember stress can make square retention drop...you have to make sure the insects are there before spraying based solely on reduced square retention! See our updated Pest Management Handbook for thresholds and guidelines for control of plant bugs.

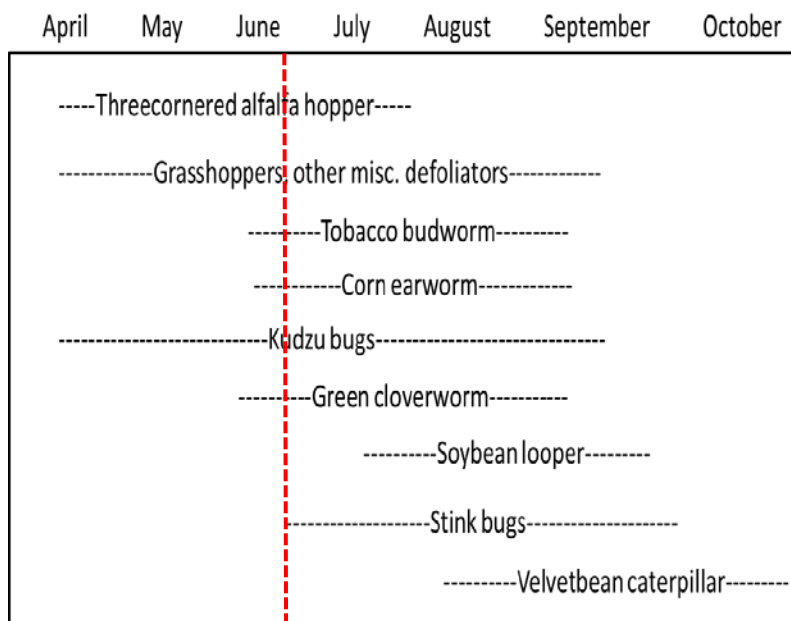


Soybean Situation

As of 19 June 2016, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 86% of our soybean crop has been planted, compared with 75% this time last year and 82% for the 5-year average. About 72% of the crop has emerged, compared with 67% this time last year and 66% for the 5-year average. The crop was described as 25% excellent, 62% good, 10% fair, 3% poor, and 0% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Soybean Insects

It is still quiet concerning insects in soybeans. Nothing to report for this past week. However, don't let you guard down. Walk some fields to see what is going on with insects. Soybeans are a favorite host of many insects, and problems can occur quickly. Defoliating caterpillars will be here quickly.



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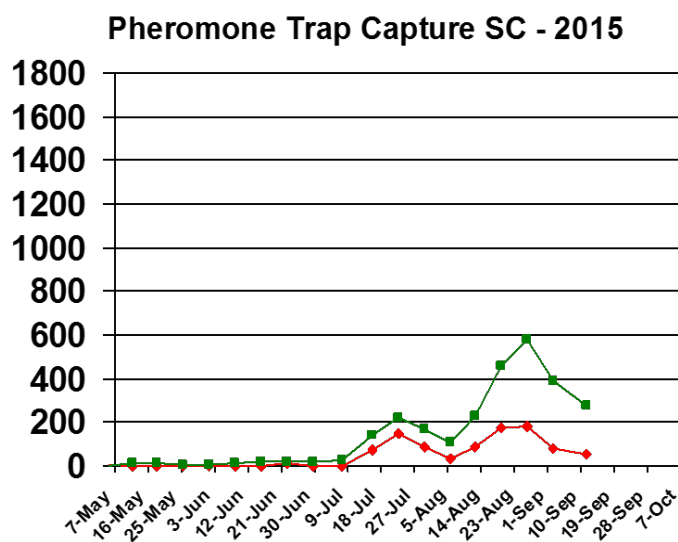
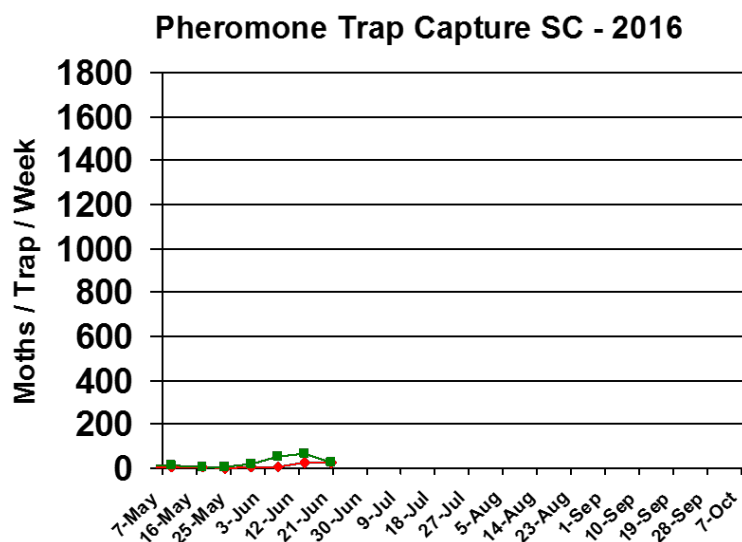
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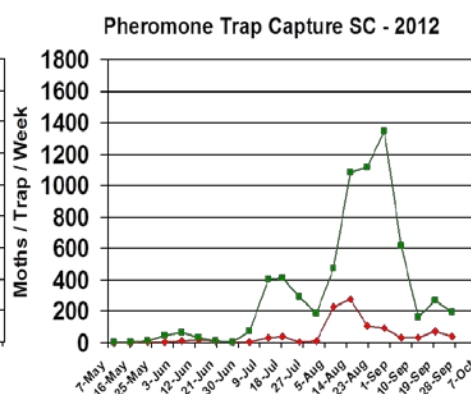
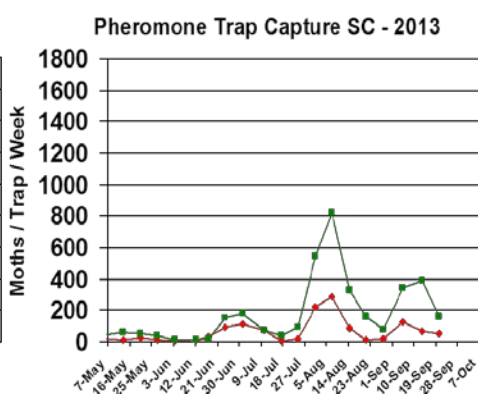
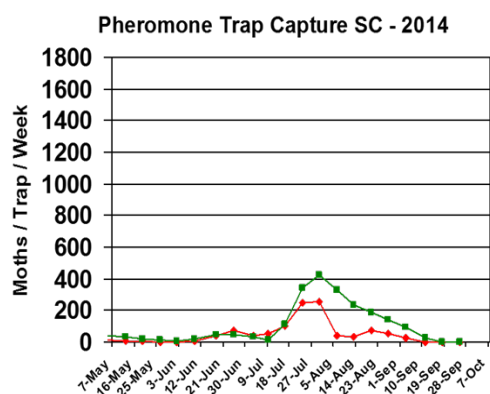
Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm



Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season are shown below, as are the captures from 2015 for reference. Tobacco budworm continues to be important for our soybean acres and for any acres of non-Bt cotton. I provide these data as a measure of moth presence and activity in our local area near my research plots. The numbers are not necessarily representative of the species throughout the state.



Trap data from 2012-2014 are shown below for reference to other recent years of trapping data from EREC:



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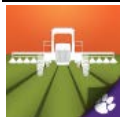
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Pest Management Handbook - 2016

Insect control recommendations are available online in the 2016 South Carolina Pest Management Handbook at:
<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/pest/>

Free Mobile Apps: “Calibrate My Sprayer” and “Mix My Sprayer”



Download our free mobile apps called “Calibrate My Sprayer” and “Mix My Sprayer” that help check for proper calibration of spraying equipment and help you with mixing user-defined pesticides, respectively, in custom units (available in both iOS and Android formats):

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/mobile-apps/>

Need More Information?

For more Clemson University Extension information: <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/>

For historical cotton/soybean insect newsletters:

http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/cotton/pest_management/newsletters/index.html

Sincerely,

Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.
Professor of Entomology



Visit our website at:
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